

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3510

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 414

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SF NL

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER RIDICULES DUTCH POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA

1. REFLECTING HURT FEELINGS OF AN ESTRANGED RELATIVE, SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER HAS ISSUED BITING STATEMENT ON DUTCH PRIME MINISTER DR. JOOP DEN UYL'S HOSTILE POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA.

2. FOR PAST FEW DAYS SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS HAS BEEN FULL OF REPORTS ABOUT "VERY LEFT" POLICIES WHICH NEW DUTCH GOVERNMENT SAYS IT WILL PURSUE RE SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA AND PORTUGAL. ACCORDING TO THESE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS, NETHERLANDS INTENDS APPLY STRICTER CONTROLS OVER OBSERVANCE OF UN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA. IT ALSO WILL GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IN VIEW OF INTENSE PUBLIC INTEREST HERE IN NEW DUTCH POLICIES, SOME OFFICIAL REACTION WAS TO BE EXPECTED.

3. VORSTER'S STATEMENT FOLLOWS: QUOTE. SEEING THAT HE
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(DEN UYL) WILL PROBABLY ONLY HOLD THE POSITION TEMPORARILY,
I DO NOT FEEL MYSELF CALLED UPON TO COMMENT ON STATEMENTS
MADE EVIDENTLY WITH THE OBJECT OF STRENGTHENING HIS OWN POSITION
IN THE NETHERLANDS. FURTHERMORE, IT IS NOT MY POLICY TO CRITICIZE
THE GOVERNMENT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY SINCE EVERY COUNTRY, SO I
BELIEVE, GETS THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IT DESERVES. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH NO ONE EXPECTS NEW DUTCH MEASURES TO HAVE
SERIOUS IMPACT UPON WHITES' POSITION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
SOUTH AFRICANS HAVE LONG BEEN AWARE OF STRONG ANTI- APARTHEID
SENTIMENT IN THE NETHERLANDS, IT IS NEVERTHELESS GALLING FOR
AFRIKANERS, ESPECIALLY, TO BE REJECTED IN THIS WAY BY PEOPLE
WHOM THEY LOOK UPON AS KIN. MOREOVER, NEW DUTCH MEASURES FOLLOW
DRAMATIC SHIFT IN POLICY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND WHICH,
UNTIL RECENTLY, WERE REGARDED BY WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS AS BEING
PARTICULARLY UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION.
HURD

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